Subject: humanitarian decoration

Parker, William Lincoln

[Cohasset, MA]

1928

Howland & Wood Esqrs.

Dear Sirs.

Col. Hamilton of Santa Barbara has sent me your answer in reply to his letter about a decoration, which belongs to me. I am enclosing your reply to him, which I will identify the decoration, and it may be of interest to you to know what little I know about it.

It was sent to my father, Rev. A. B. Worthington, then of New York, by a Count Zapary, a noted physician in Paris,

in recognition of the Count's appreciation of my father's writings, which had been brought to his notice by one of his patients, an American lady. Count Zaffany sent it through this lady, who was a friend of all of us, and the message which came with it was lost long ago. For it was at some time during the Seventies that it was sent. It may have been even in the late Sixties. It is very heavy and handsome, the crown being about 1/4 of an inch thick.

For some reason I associate it with Knights Hospitallers.

Were they not called Knights-of Malta,
whence, perhaps the Maltese crosses?
Also I seem to remember that
Count Zapary was Hungarian.
I agree with you in doubting that
it was governmental or official,
but it seems to me too stately
a decoration not to belong to a
stately organization, charitable or
otherwise; Could it would be interesting
if more could be known. Beyond
what I have written, I have no
clue.

Sincerely Yours

Elizabeth F. Parker

(Mrs. William Lincoln Parker)

June 20th 1928.

29th June, 1928

Mrs. William Lincoln Parker,
Uplands,
Cohasset, Mass.

Dear Madam:

I am very much interested in what you say concerning the decoration that Colonel Hamilton wrote to me about. It undoubtedly has some red-cross or humanitarian significance. Unfortunately, these decorations of societies and orders have been very poorly recorded, and it is often impossible to locate those issued a number of years ago. As I stated, we have one here. In case I ever get a clue, I will try to let you know.

Very truly yours,

Curator